

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A heater comprising:
a plate including a heating surface which heats an object to be heated; and
a resistance heater element provided in said plate, said resistance heater element comprising a continuous wiring pattern including a plurality of flexures, and a uniform thermal pattern portion, wherein an area between immediately radially adjacent flexures is varied to improve thermal uniformity between said adjacent flexures.

2. (Currently Amended) A heater comprising:
a plate including a heating surface for heating an object to be heated; and
a resistance heater element provided in said plate, said resistance heater element comprising a continuous wiring pattern including a plurality of radially sequential wirings having a plurality of radially adjacent folding parts, said folding parts having substantially rounded corners and a substantially straight connection portion connecting said substantially rounded corners of said folding parts;
wherein a first distance between a portion of one of said wirings before said wiring is folded to form one of said folding parts and an opposed, immediately radially adjacent portion of said wiring after said wiring is folded to form said folding part is substantially constant, and wherein a second distance between a portion of said wiring at one end of said folding part and an opposed, immediately radially adjacent portion of said wiring at the other end of said folding part is greater than said first distance.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented) A heater comprising:
 - a plate including a heating surface for heating an object to be heated; and
 - a resistance heater element provided in said plate, said resistance heater element comprising a continuous wiring pattern including a plurality of radially sequential wirings having a plurality of radially adjacent folding parts, said folding parts including a substantially linear connection part and corners provided at both ends of said connection part;

wherein at least one of said corners of said folding part is substantially rounded and swollen to protrude outwardly; and

wherein a first distance between said radially adjacent wirings in a first region of said wiring pattern other than a second region of said wiring pattern proximate said folding parts is substantially constant, and wherein a second distance between said radially adjacent wirings in said second region is greater than said first distance.
5. (Previously Presented) The heater according to claim 2, wherein said second distance gradually increases toward said folding part.
6. (Previously Presented) The heater according to claim 2, wherein said wiring pattern further comprises two terminals disposed in a center of said plate and a plurality of arc wiring portions that are concentrically disposed axisymmetric to a center line of said plate.
7. (Previously Presented) The heater according to claim 2, wherein said resistance heater element is embedded in said plate.
8. (Previously Presented) The heater according to claim 2, wherein said plate comprises a ceramic.

9. (Previously Presented) The heater according to claim 8, wherein said ceramic is aluminum nitride.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously Presented) The heater according to claim 21, wherein said flexures are folding parts of said wiring pattern, wherein a first distance between radially adjacent wirings of said folding parts in a first region of said wiring pattern other than a second region of said wiring portion proximate said folding parts is substantially constant, and wherein a second distance between said radially adjacent wirings in said second region is greater than said first distance.

12. (Previously Presented) The heater according to claim 21, wherein said resistance element is embedded in said plate.

13. (Previously Presented) The heater according to claim 21, wherein said plate comprises a ceramic.

14. (Previously Presented) The heater according to claim 13, wherein said ceramic is aluminum nitride.

15. (Currently Amended) A heater comprising:

a plate including a heating surface which heats an object to be heated; and
a resistance heater element provided in said plate, said resistance heater element comprising a wiring pattern including a plurality of concentrically disposed element lines having terminals for input/output of electric power, each said element line including a winding pattern;

wherein at least one said element line passes between said terminals by means of a flexure; and

wherein said flexure includes a swollen portion having substantially rounded corners that curves in an asymptotic direction with respect to at least one of an adjacent portion of said at least one element line and an adjacent portion of another immediately adjacent element line.

16. (Previously Presented) The heater according to claim 15, wherein said adjacent portion of said another immediately adjacent element line is a flexure of said another immediately adjacent element line.
17. (Previously Presented) The heater according to claim 15, wherein said adjacent portion of said at least one element line is a terminal end of a connection part of said at least one element line.
18. (Previously Presented) The heater according to claim 15, wherein said resistance heater element is embedded in said plate.
19. (Previously Presented) The heater according to claim 15, wherein said plate comprises a ceramic.
20. (Previously Presented) The heater according to claim 19, wherein said ceramic is aluminum nitride.
21. (Previously Presented) A heater comprising:
 - a plate having a heating surface which heats an object to be heated;
 - at least one hole formed in said plate; and
 - a resistance heater element provided in said plate, said resistance heater element comprising a continuous wiring pattern including a plurality of flexures connecting a plurality of radially sequential, substantially concentric arc portions, and a plurality of curved avoidance portions, said avoidance portions having a radius of

curvature that deviates from a radius of curvature of said arc portions to circumvent at least one of said at least one hole, wherein said radius of curvature of each said avoidance portion on each said radially sequential arc portion increases as the radial distance between each said avoidance portion and said hole increases.